

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: OVIP (SECRETARY ROGERS)

SUBJECT: WASHPOST NEWS, COMMENT SUMMARY, SATURDAY MAY 19

FOR BRAY.

1. WATERGATE CONTINUES DOMINATE POST SPACE, WITH 23 NEWS STORIES, SIDEBARS, PROFILES, COMMENTARIES, LEAD EDITORIAL. FRONT PAGE PLASTERED WITH LARGE PHOTOS MCCORD BEFORE MIKE, HEARING ROOM SCENE. DOUBLE BANNER SPASHES QUOTE MCCORD TOLD NIXON KNEW OF OFFERS UNQUOTE AND QUOTE COX NAMED SPECIAL PROSECUTOR UNQUOTE.

2. ROGERS. ON PAGE THREE UNDER THREE COLUMN HEAD, DIUGUID REPORTS FROM BOGOTA SECRETARY MADE MAJOR SPEECH OF LATAM TOUR FRIDAY, TELLING COLOMBIANS U. S. POLICY HAS SHIFTED FROM PATERNALISM TO FRATERNALISM. REPORTS DESPITE ADVANCE BILLING THIS WOULD BE HIS PRINCIPAL PUBLIC STATEMENT IN EIGHT- NATION TOUR, SPEECH CONTAINED NO NEW THOUGHTS. SAYS SECRETARY REITERATED POINTS MADE IN OAS WASHINGTON SPEECH LAST MONTH, TOLD REPORTERS ON PLANE LITTLE POINT TRYING SAY ANYTHING NOW FOR AMERICAN AUDIENCE BECAUSE WATERGATE DOMINATING NEWS SPACE, WOULD MAKE ANOTHER ADDRESS IN WASHINGTON. STORY NOTES UNCLASSIFIED

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CASEY IS HOLDING TALKS THAT WILL HELP FORMULATE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES MENTIONED BY SECRETARY IN SPEECH.

3. CASEY. ON PAGE 12 PHILIP GREER WRITES UNDER NEW YORK DATELINE

AND TWO COL. HEAD QUOTE EX- SEC CHIEF SAYS JOHN DEAN CALLED HIM TOO UNQUOTE. GREER REPORTS CASEY SAID FRIDAY THAT HE REBUFFED REQUEST FROM DEAN THAT HE SEEK POSTPONEMENT SUPOENAS RELATING TO SECRET VESCO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION. SAYS CASEY ACKNOWLEDGED THROUGH SPOKESMAN DEAN CALLED HIM IN NOVEMBER. GREER SAYS CASEY QUOTE MENTIONED PROMINENTLY IN NEW YORK INDICTMENT, ALTHOUGH ALWAYS AS TARGET OF THOSE WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY TRYING SIDETRACK SEC PROBE UNQUOTE.

4. WATERGATE FRONT PAGE. LEAD IS ON MCCORD TESTIMONY BEFORE ERVIN COMMITTEE ON ALLEGED CAULFIELD OFFER OF CLEMENCY (PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FRIDAY) AND THAT PRESIDENT KNEW CAULFIELD WAS MAKING OFFER. OFF LEAD SAYS WHITE HOUSE ISSUES IMMEDIATE FLAT DENIAL, ZIEGLER SAYING PRESIDENT QUOTE NEVER MADE ANY OFFER OF CLEMENCY UNQUOTE, NEVER AUTHORIZED ANYONE TO DO SO. NO THOUGHT PRESIDENT RESIGNING. MCCORD, PRESSED BY PANEL ON WHY HE WOULD KNOWINGLY BREAK LAW AT WATERGATE AFTER LONG YEARS EXCELLENT GOVERNMENT SERVICE, TESTIFIED HE DID SO BECAUSE HE THOUGHT MITCHELL, DEAN, PRESIDENT HIMSELF DESIRED IT DONE FOR MOST COMPELLING REASONS. SAYS HE WAS FULLY AWARE HE WAS BREAKING LAW BUT WAS ALSO AWARE ATTORNEY GENERAL QUOTE BY SINGING NAME ON PAPER UNQUOTE OR EVEN ORAL ORDER COULD MAKE ACTION LEGAL. -- GEORGE LARDNER BY- LINER REPORTS FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL ARCHIBALD COX IN KENNEDY- JOHNSON ADMINISTRATIONS, HAS AGREED TAKE ROLE WATERGATE PROSECUTOR IF SENATE APPROVES. INSIDE PAGES CONTAIN BIOGRAPHICAL, BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON COX, A DEMOCRAT. -- WILLIAM CLAIBORNE BY- LINER REPORTS SEN. MCCLELLAN, CHAIRMAN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS, ASKS HALDEMAN, EHRLICHMAN, DEAN, EX- WH AIDE DAVID YOUNG APPEAR QUOTE AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE UNQUOTE TO TESTIFY ON ALLEGED WH EFFORTS EMPLOY CIA IN WATERGATE ROLE. CLAIBORNE SAYS CIA OPENED ITS UNCLASSIFIED FILES AT LEAST TWICE TO HOWARD HUNT SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER AGENCY SUPPOSEDLY DISCONTINUED HELP TO HIM IN AUGUST 1971. SEN. SYMINGTON REITERATES IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO BELIEVE PRESIDENT UNAWARE OF CIA INVOLVEMENT, ESPECIALLY AFTER NEW CIA PAPERS COME INTO HIS (SYMINGTON' S) POSSESSION DURING HELMS HEARINGS.

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5. WATERGATE INSIDE PAGES. FEDERAL JUDGE ISSUES ORDER ALLOWING LAWYERS FOR DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE TAKE DEPOSITIONS HALDEMAN, EHRLICHMAN IN CIVIL SUIT BUT NOT OF DEAN, WHO SEEKING IMMUNITY BEFORE TESTIFYING BEFORE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATING ALLEGED WATERGATE COVERUP. -- FINANCE COMMITTEE TO RELECT PRESIDENT AND COMMON

CAUSE NEGOTIATE FOR THREE HOURS FRIDAY BUT FAIL TO SETTLE LAWSUIT BY LATTER GROUP AIMED AT COMPELLING CRP DISCLOSE FINANCING BEFORE CURRENT ELECTION LAW TOOK EFFECT IN APRIL 1972 -- DONALD BAKER HAS MOOD PIECE ON WATERGATE, ATTEMPTING GAUGE MAN- IN- STREET REACTIONS, WHICH VASTLY MIXED. NOTES NEWSPAPER SALS AT ONE STAND ALONE IN DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON UP BY 200 COPS PER DAY -- PRESIDENT AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ROBERT MESERVE SAYS QUOTE NEED TO GET THE

FACTS OUT OUT- WEIGHTS ANY DIFFICULTIES SENATE PROBE MIGHT RAISE IN LATER CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS. 6. ADMINISTRATION WATERGATE COUNTER OFFENSIVE? GOV. HALL, SECSTATE JOHN ROGERS OF OKLAHOMA SAY THEIR INCOME TAX RETURNS ARE BEING INVESTIGATED BY IRA, BOTH INDICATE THEY THINK IT PART OF NATIONAL PROBE OF TOP DEMOCRATS, AP REPORTS FROM OKLAHOMA CITY. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE SAYS IT HAS REFERRED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL VIOLATIONS BY COMMITTEE WHICH SUPPORTED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY NORTH CAROLINA GOV. TERRY SANFORD. RICHARD COHEN FRONT PAGE BY- LINER REPORTS GOV. MANDEL OF MARYLAND MADE EXTRAORDINARY TELEPHONE CALL LAST YEAR TO THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL KLEINDIENST IN WHICH HE ANGRILY COMPLAINED FEDERAL AGENTS IN MARYLAND WERE TRYING EMBARRASS HIM POLITICALLY BY DISPLAYING PHOTO TAKEN AT POLITICAL RALLY THAT SHOWED GOVERNOR WITH TWICE- CONVICTED BALTIMORE NIGHTSPOT OWNER. STORY SAYS MANDEL THREATENED HAVE STATE POLICE ARREST FEDERAL AGENTS QUOTE IF THEY SO MUCH AS PIT ON SIDEWALK UNQUOTE.

7. BREZHNEV WASHINGTON VISIT. DUSKO DODER BY- LINER SAYS ADVANCE PARTY 35 SOVIET OFFICIALS ARRIVES THIS WEEK TO PREPARE FOR JUNE BREZHNEV VISIT. DODER SAYS WELL- PLACED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN U. S. CONDUCTED INTENSIVE EFFORT THIS MONTH TO ASSESS POSSIBLE IMPACT WATERGATE ON PRESIDENT' S DOMESTIC POSITION, THEIR CONCLUSION IS PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE RIDE OUT WATERGATE STORM.

8. BREZHNEV BONN VISIT. JOHN GOSHKO WRITES FROM BONN BREZHNEV VISIT GETS OFF TO GOOD START, AFFIRMS HISTORIC DETENTE.
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9. MARY RUSSELL BY- LINER PAGE ONE REPORTS PRESIDENT FRIDAY VETOED BILL REQUIRING SENATE CONFIRMATION OF DIRECTOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OMB.

10. KISSINGER. JONATHAN RANDAL REPORTS FROM PARIS KISSINGER, THO HOLD SECOND MEETING, HANOI SPOKESMAN LATER SAID IT TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER THERE ANY PROGRESS. SEVERAL MORE MEETINGS FORECAST.

11. COMMENT: WASHPOST LEAD EDITORIAL HEADED QUOTE THE EVILS OF WIRETAPPING UNQUOTE SAYS QUOTE EVEN FOR MOST DILIGENT READER, IT BECOMING NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE KEEP SEPARATE AND STRAIGHT ALL OF MATTERS NOW HURTLING OVER EACH OTHER INTO PUBLIC VIEW. PROBLEM COMPREHENSION ILLUSTRATED BY TENDENCY TOSS INTO SAME HUGE KETTLE OF CORRUPTION TWO SURVEILLANCE CASES WHICH ARE REALLY QUITE DISTINCT: WATERGATE BUGGING AND WIRETAPS ON 13 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, FOUR JOURNALISTS APPROVED BY PRESIDENT NIXON IN NAME NATIONAL SECURITY IN 1971 ... OUR OWN VIEW IS THAT IT DIFFICULT TO LAY DOWN HARD, FAST RULES WHEN QUESTION TURNS ON RIGHT OF GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE ITS OWN SECURITY REGULATIONS. CASUAL USE SUCH TECHNIQUES AS TELEPHONE TAPPING IN MATTERS marginally AFFECTING NATIONAL SECURITY IS ONE THING -- AND CLEARLY, TO US, A WRONG THING, BUT GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE DENIED RIGHT TO LAWFUL USE OF STRINGENT METHODS ENFORCE

ITS OWN SECURITY REGULATIONS GOVERNING SECRET INFORMATION IN
MATTERS GREAT SENSITIVITY UNQUOTE. ON OPED PAGE WILLIAM S.
WHITE SAYS PRESIDENT PREPARING MAJOR COUNTER- ATTACK IN WATERGATE
SCANDAL. SPECULATES PLANS BEING MADE BY HANDFUL MEN QUOTE SIX AT
MOST IS MY GUESS-- WHO MEET AT ALL HOURS IN WHITE HOUSE- EXECUTIVE
OFFICE BUILDING COMPLEX ... EXCLUDED IS CERTAINLY BULK OF CABINET
MMM IS IT CREDIBLE TO SUPPOSE THAT AMID ALL THIS FLOOD OF ACCUSATION
ADMINISTRATION HAS MAINTAINED ITS LONG SILENCE SOLELY BECAUSE
THERE IS NOTHING TO SAY IN REBUTTAL? UNQUOTE. TOM BRADEN WRITES
ON QUOTE PROTECTING THE INNOCENT UNQUOTE. SAYS IN UNFOLDING OF ANY
SCANDAL THERE IS SEEMINGLY INEVITABLE MOMENT WHEN INVESTIGATION
AND FACTUAL- MINDED COMMENT GIVE WAY TO SANCTIMONIOUS SELF-
RIGHTEOUSNESS. IT IS DANGEROUS MOMENT BECAUSE NEXT STEP IS ABDICATION
OF
RESPONSIBILITY IN BLANKET INDICTMENT AND BOOTLESS BREAST
BEATING. IN WATERGATE AFFAIR, WE MAY BE WITNESSING THAT MOMENT
RIGHT NOW. THUS, IF HENRY KISSINGER AND HIS FORMER ASSISTANT,
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GEN HAIG, ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED BY WATERGATE WHAT
IS NEXT STEP? ... IF EVERYBODY IS COMPROMISED BY WATERGATE,
THEN NOBODY IS COMPROMISED, AND PEOPLE WHO WERE GUILTY OF MONSTROUS
DECEIT AND CRIME WILL ESCAPE PUBLIC STIGMA IN THE KIND OF ORGY OF
RECRIMINATION AGAINST WHICH KISSINGER ONCE WARNED UNQUOTE.
RUSH

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